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**Fischer Educates Public About Honeybees**

*Summary: Kelly Fischer '17, Roseville, is developing a honeybee educational installation with the Prairie Ecology Bus Center.*

(August 25, 2014)-Kelly Fischer '17, Roseville, is working with the University of Minnesota, Morris Center for Small Towns (CST) and Prairie Ecology Bus Center (PEBC) in Lakefield to research honeybees for an indoor observation beehive. PEBC provides educational programming for all ages, offering classes and activities and working with teachers to bring environmental education to schools.

Fischer is researching honeybees for an observation hive that was recently installed in PEBC's new classroom for children's programs. Her work began with a naturalist conference in Spirit Lake, Iowa, where she learned about observation hives and assessed the feasibility of a PEBC hive. Fischer then traveled to Lakefield to learn more about the naturalist profession through hands-on experience with PEBC programs, which gave her an opportunity to work with the new installation of honeybees.

Fischer continues to research both honeybees and native pollinators. She is creating new exhibits about the health, lifecycle, and importance of bees and acts as a liaison to University of Minnesota, Twin Cities bee experts.

"I've learned a ton," Fischer says. "I've developed a huge interest in pollinators and have been exposed to their undeniable importance across the globe. I'll definitely be taking all of this information with me to wherever it is I end up in the next few years."

CST is a community outreach program that serves as a point-of-entry to the resources of the University of Minnesota. Small towns, local units of government, k-12 schools, nonprofit organizations, and other University units are able to utilize CST's resources as they work on rural issues or make contributions to rural society. Its mission is to focus the University's attention and marshal its resources toward assisting Minnesota's small towns with locally identified issues by creating applied learning opportunities for faculty and students.

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